ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The method includes the steps of assigning entered
attribution information including material and thickness

5   of a sheet metal to a specified solid model, assigning
entered designation information for designating an open
plane and a bending portion to the solid model, obtaining
a minimum radius of curvature at the bending portion from
the material and the thickness of the sheet metal,

10 generating a downsized model defined by the designated
open plane and a plurality of planes that are generated by
moving a plurality of planes of the solid model except the
open plane inward in parallel by a distance that is a sum
of the thickness of the sheet metal and the minimum radius

15 of curvature, generating inner wall surfaces by moving a
plurality of surfaces of the downsized model except for
the open plane outward in parallel by a distance that is
equal to the minimum radius of curvature, generating plate
portions by a projection process in which the inner wall

20 surfaces are further moved outward in parallel by a
distance that is equal to the thickness of the sheet metal,
and generating a bending portion form that is a fillet
connecting neighboring plate portions at the bending
portion designated in the solid model.